

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the first complete paragraph on page 16 of the specification (that was amended April 23, 2004) as follows:

Fig. 6 is a flow diagram illustrating the steps of a method to conduct secure banking and Internet purchasing using the data port. A purchaser 620 who wishes to conduct such business may use the data port, acting as a secure terminal 623, to contact his or her bank 621. At step 650, computer 370 monitors the security of the sealed data port (e.g., sealing and/or network interface firewalls) for any breaches ~~and accordingly controls the flow of data through the data port, for example, for all of the concurrent or subsequent steps shown in FIG. 6.~~ When a home owner initiates a banking transaction, PC interface 398 will transmit only the data port serial number, and not an initial or public encryption key, to the appropriate bank or other financial institution via the communications network 625. In turn, the bank would be the only institution, which has a look up table to associate the data port serial number with the initial or public key number. The bank, of course, will also have the private key required to ultimately decode the message. In this way, a thief would have to not only have to break to the private key to decrypt the financial transaction, but would also need to gain access to the serial number / public key table that is only held by the financial institution 621.

Please amend the last paragraph on page 16 of the specification that extends into page 17 of the specification (that was amended April 23, 2004) as follows:

A particularly advantageous use of the data port according to the invention includes monitoring a personal medical alert device worn by a user inside the home. Such a device may, for example, transmit medical data on a periodic basis and be relayed to a physician through the data port according to the invention. For example, the device could transmit information by way of a wireless connection to the house power lines, for retransmission to the utility company via PC interface 398. Alternatively, such a device may be activated by the user to alert emergency medical services through the data port according to the invention. A similar advantage can be achieved to monitor movements of a user restricted to their homes by, for

example, a court order. Computer 370 may include a processor or means 351 for detecting a satellite identified location of the personal medical alert device or other such device using, for example, network wireless transmission 361 which includes satellite communications. Computer 370 also may be configured to detect security breaches in sealed data ports (e.g. network interface 272, which is configured as a firewall) ~~and accordingly control transmission of data through the sealed data port interface.~~

Please amend the third complete paragraph on page 18 of the specification (that was amended April 23, 2004) as follows:

In addition, ~~the~~ bank 621 has the option 635 to check if the vendor is not trustworthy, e.g., because it is a suspect company, or the option 636 to check if the vendor is not a domestic business subject to U S laws, in which event additional purchase authorization requirements may be imposed 632. Options 635 and 636 may be exercised sequentially. First exercising option 635, bank 621 may find that the vendor is untrustworthy (untrustworthy = YES), then bank 621 may refuse authorization (641). If the vendor is trustworthy (untrustworthy = NO), bank 621 may then exercise option 636 to check if the vendor is or is not a domestic business subject to U S laws. If vendor 630 is subject to US domestic laws, bank 621 may promptly guarantee payment to the vendor (631). If vendor 630 is not subject to US domestic laws, bank 621 may require proof that vendor 630 has shipped the goods to the purchaser before guaranteeing payment (632).